December 13, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

Andrew Kennaly, Pastor Annie Welle, Pianist

Worship Leader: Sue Helander

TURN OFF PHONE WIFI, PLUG IN PHONE MIC, TURN ON MIC APP

BEGIN FACEBOOK LIVE, OPENING MUSIC

LIGHT CHRIST CANDLE, RING THE BELL, MOMENT OF SILENCE

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ONLINE WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (see write up below; Pastor will read)

If you have an Advent wreath at home, this would be a great time to join together in lighting three of the candles.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Holy God, we pray for the mix of life at this time of year. We enjoy the celebration, the emphasis on peace, love, and joy in a world brought together in the birth of Jesus. Yet we also experience the tension and fears of a world not settled by or deeply receiving this loving presence. We see political divisions, rejection of basic health practices, harassment and intimidation. We also know people suffering grief as they, or those they love, suffer health challenges, or the raw pain of the loss of a loved one. For some, this Christmas is more than isolating, but a reminder that tragedy has come. Yet so has your light. The evolutionary movement toward wholeness and community pulls us forward. Your creative power in Christ has dawned, and our joy is complete because, regardless of our circumstances, we are hidden with Christ in God. Thank you, o LORD, for your faithfulness to all generations, even as we pray what Jesus shares with disciples, saying,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you. (And also with you). Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, read by worship leader

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:6-8, 19-28, read by Pastor

WORDS OF WITNESS “Creative Origin, Source of Blessing”

OFFERING

One way to respond to God’s leading in your life is to give of yourself in time, talent, and treasure. Supporting the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church helps support expressions of love in the world. Financial gifts can be placed in the offering plates at each entrance door, or sent by regular mail to 417 N. Fourth Ave. in Sandpoint ID, 83864, or donated online at the church website: [www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As we come alongside a larger stream of consciousness, in Christ, standing by John the Baptizer on the shore of this mighty river, may we claim our place, joyfully stepping into the flow as we join something larger than ourselves. We are invited into deeper reflections, immersed in the love of God the Father, the grace and peace of Christ, and the sustaining Presence of the Holy Spirit; one God, who is origin, the start, the beginning, with us NOW, embracing and calling, even as forever. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WITH THE WORLD

CLOSING MUSIC, ENDING FACEBOOK LIVE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Season of Advent is the beginning of the Christian Year. Forty days before Christmas help us prepare. The word *Advent* means “coming,” involving a season of waiting and remembering the anticipation of God’s people throughout the centuries. We celebrate the coming of Christ Jesus.  
 **This third Sunday of Advent** we light the first candle of HOPE, remembering God’s promises. Affirming God’s goodness and love in the coming of Christ, we also light the second candle of LOVE. Living with God within our hearts, we discover the **JOY** Jesus gives to those who follow. As Jesus prays to God in John 17:13, he says, "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.” In the JOY of Jesus, we light the third candle.  
(*light two purple candles and the pink one)* Shall we pray? Lord, help us to live in the hope of your great love. Thank you for your Joy, and it’s grounding in your promise of life in your name. In the hope, love, and joy of Jesus Christ, we pray, AMEN.